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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

THE CENTURY and ST. NICHOLAS for this month are rather more elaborate than usual. A most readable article on Count Von Moltke, and an interesting one upon the qualifications for our next President, are the most noticeable in THE CENTURY. In ST. NICHOLAS, Captain MAYNE REID's story and the Boys and Girls Almanac are full of agreeable matter.

THE ATLANTIC for March has a number of good papers, one on Henry Irving appearing to be the favorite subject. An article on Keats is well written, but the subject has been so thoroughly and exhaustively worked that it has become rather unprofitable reading.

T. B. PETERSON & BRO., PHILADELPHIA, PA., are about to publish a new work by Emile Zola, and entitled "The Joys of Life." As this author has so liberally shown up the ills of this temporary existence of ours, it will be of some interest to discover what he thinks of its joys.

THE LADIES GAZETTE OF FASHION of London, is one of the most thorough and understandable (to the male mind) magazines upon these abstruse subjects of so much interest to woman kind generally.

"GOOD LITERATURE" recently consolidated with "THE CRITIC." A change which has resulted in spoiling two heretofore interesting papers.

Beds may be made to look attractive, at small expense, by covering with fancy counterpanes of white muslin. They are made in this way: Cut the material in circular pieces about four inches in diameter, then gather the edge, turning in with strong white linen thread. When a quantity of these are made, sew them together, leaving a little diamond-shaped open space between each one. When sufficiently large to cover a bed, finish by a fringe on each end circle, and put a spread of pale pink or blue cambric underneath. Pillow shams should be made in the same way. Such a bed cover will keep clean for a long time, and does not require ironing after washing.

The most universally recognized rule for determining the height of a room is the sum of half the width and the square root of the length. The adoption of this rule results in bringing the angle formed by the ceiling and wall just within the angle of vision of a person standing in the centre of the room without raising the eyes; but of course the rule can only be strictly observed in one room on each floor, unless a double tier of joists is set above the smaller rooms, or unless it is possible to have the floors of rooms in the same story on different levels, either course involving difficulty and expense.—A. F. OAKLEY in Harper's Magazine.

And now it is said that the house of the future will be of glass. Its manufacture has reached such perfection that a glass house is claimed to be superior in every way to one of wood, brick, or stone. Glass can be made as durable as granite and to imitate perfectly any of the precious stones. What a magnificent sight would be a city of glass, sparkling in the sunlight and reflecting all the colors of the rainbow! The old proverb of those living in glass houses not throwing stones will have to be stowed away among the world's rubbish where so many other things have gone.

Metallic lustre is a revival of an ancient art of painting in metallic colors on tapestry, velvet, silk or satin. The colors give a beautiful sheen to the work and they are adapted to screens, portieres, curtains, cushions, furniture and a multitude of other things. The London Artist is responsible for this innovation.

A damp cloth enveloping the broom head will be found very desirable in removing the dust from a carpet in a room where there may be many small articles to catch the dirt raised by an ordinary sweeping.

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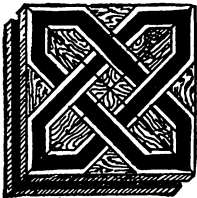
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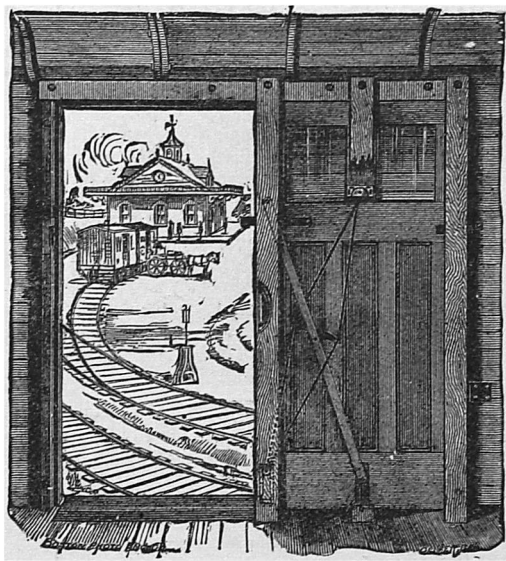
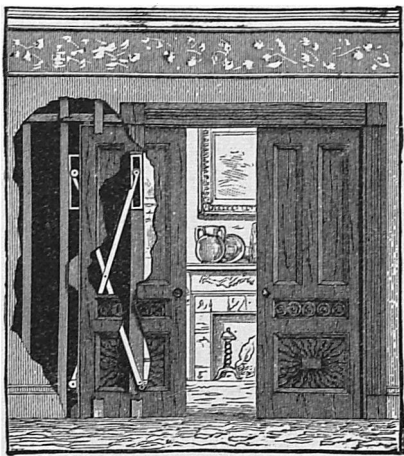
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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

The following is a recipe for a home-made
work table, the carpentering work of which
may be accomplished by clever people for
themselves. "Either a bright old-fashioned
flowered chintz or a pretty *crêtonne* would be
suitable for the covering, and very decorative
also; as the idea is, after all, only a resuscita-
tion of a very old French fashion in boudoir
furniture of two centuries ago. Take a shal-
low but wide box, such as can be produced
from any grocer for a few pence, and remove
the lid; then procure four square pieces of
wood, each about a yard long, for the legs of
your table, and cut off the tops in a slanting
direction, and nail these firmly to your box at
the corners, about an inch and a half from the
sides. These legs should cross in the centre,
and be secured at the crossing by a nail. Then
take the lid of the box and cut four small
places at each corner to fit the legs, and nail it
firmly into its place to form a shelf at the
lower part, and to add to the safety of the
whole. The frame being made and quite clean
next give the whole a coat of "Berlin black,"
and the following day give it all a careful
polishing with a clean, very hard, black lead
brush. The box must next undergo a thorough
beautification, and, of course, much depends
on the owner, and the amount of pains she is
inclined to take. The outside may be first
covered with a sheet of wadding, over which
the chintz or *crêtonne* may be stretched plain or
else fluted, and both wadding and chintz may
be fastened with small nails underneath the
box and turned over the top of the inside.
The lower edge of this may be finished with a
border of fringe, of Macramé lace, or with a
narrow frill of the same material. The lining
is put in thus: Cut five pieces of cardboard
to fit the inside of the box—the four sides and
the bottom—and pad them all with wadding on
one side. Cover the bottom and one side with
quilted satin, and fasten them in with glue, the
bottom first. Then cover the other three sides
with satin plainly stretched over the wadding,
and make a pocket to go over each, cording the
top of each pocket to make it stronger. Then
glue them to the back of the cardboard, and
afterwards glue that into the box. The work-
box and its stand are now both ready, but,
lastly, a square of *crêtonne* lined with satin and
edged with fringe or lace, must be prepared to
be placed over the top of the box, thus to
preserve the contents from dust when unused.
This, of course, admits of any degree of orna-
mentation that you desire."

"Plastique" is the name of a new French
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Pressed leaves placed between sheets of
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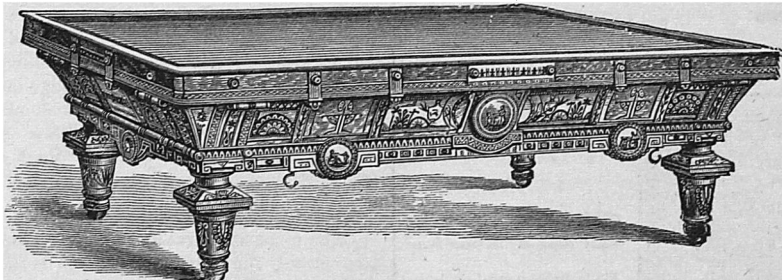
Linen table mats are made and lined with
canton flannel.

Glass bath tubs are the latest novelties.



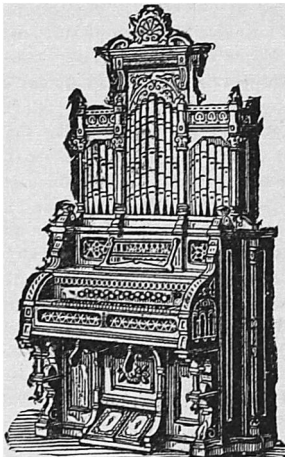
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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

Ancient Japanese art. A revival of ancient art is vigorously setting in throughout Japan, as sensible natives are beginning to see the evil effects of western influence in deteriorating the true national style. Now the Japanese are eagerly looking up their old artistic heirlooms, and taking care that such treasures do not pass into European hands for a few pence only. In order to raise the public taste also, exhibitions are to be held in the chief cities of the best works of the old Japanese masters, the series having been opened by a display in Yokohama of some 120 pictures by Tanin, who lived more than two centuries ago, and is considered one of the great native painters.

The latest in floral decorations for a dinner table is to have roses of different colors with the long stems and leaves laid around the edge of the table—for instance, one big rose beside each plate—a red, white, yellow, and so on, the stem of one flower touching the leaves of another. On the very edge of the table is a border of smilax. The central flower decoration is no longer in vogue. A novel card for the names of guests at table is a brightly polished calla lily leaf laid beside each plate with the writing in gilt. Menus are also written in gilt on these polished leaves with a beautiful effect.

Dessert mats are worked on cream-colored satin, with outline silks and edged with delicate lace, each having a garland of the prevailing flowers—violets in April, pansies or hawthorn in May, corn flowers in June, forget-me-nots in July, single dahlias in August, grapes and vine leaves in September, and in the winter barberries and Virginia creeper leaves.

Tidies may have embroidered upon them the flowers that are in season during the various months. For instance, in the Spring there is the laburnum, dropping gold; in June roses, red, pink, and yellow; in July the carnation; in August the gladiolus, and then the sunflower.

Pictures hanging against a damp wall should be backed with lead paper such as is found in tea chests, or it should be held clear of the wall by affixing a cork at each corner of the frame. Either of these means will protect the picture from the bad effects of the dampness.

In some of the paintings and woven devices of textile fabrics made by the ancient Peruvians, who were a nation of caricaturists, comical delineations of cats and birds are common. In some of these figures the tail of the animal terminated in a birds head.

A sash holder is being made that seems to fill all the requirements. It is simple, is entirely out of sight, permits the free raising or lowering of the window, and will hold it in any desired position; it is durable and prevents the sash rattling in the wind.

A pencil is made for the use of artists that has within its handle several leads of different colors, any two leads it being possible to use at one time, so that a mark made at a single stroke will be shaded in different colors.

A glass throne has been made for one of those interesting imbecile monarchs of India, to whom England must constantly make presents in order to keep them quiet.

A polisher and cleaner for kitchen cutlery has been introduced, and is said to be effective in removing the stains and marks upon the metal.

In Paris there are fine art repair shops in which the newest and rarest piece of pottery can be made as cracked and dilapidated looking as the esthetic soul could desire.

Mahogany furniture should be washed with warm water and soap, then an application of beeswax and sweet oil upon a soft cloth, and polished with chamois, gives a rich finish.

White paint that has become discolored may be nicely cleaned by using a little whitening in the water for washing.

Damask napkins having the corner turned down and an initial embroidered upon it, are much used.

Piano covers are made of plush in one color, the lining, silk or satin, of a contrasting shade and the edge embroidered.

Oblong mahogany tables with brass feet are fashionable.

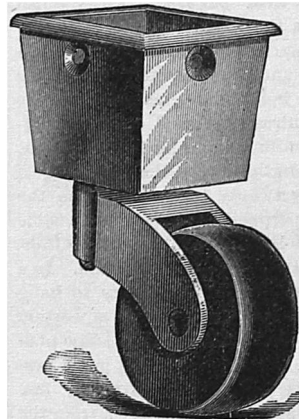
Shades for candles to be fashionable in color, must be either pink or yellow.

Bronze easels are elegant.

JOHN TOLER, SONS & Co.,

MANUFACTURERS OF

Fine Furniture Casters.



We are making all kinds and sizes, from the ordinary

PLATE AND BED,

Up to the finest kinds used on first-class Furniture.

Over seven hundred sizes and kinds of these goods can be obtained through the

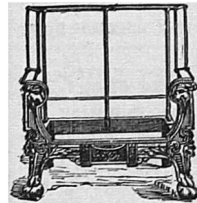
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In the States, arrangements with whom enable them to sell at our lowest prices. Special sizes and designs will be gotten up for the accommodation of our customers.

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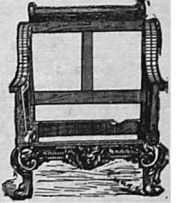
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Fine Furniture Frames

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ASH BACKS.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

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MAKERS OF THE FINEST GRADES OF

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(17 years with T. & H. Dyer.)
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IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.
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patterns, kept constantly on hand, or by them-
selves, out of the stocks of leading houses in the
trade. Curtain Drapery and Hangings a specialty.

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Patent Floor and Steam Power
Machinery. Complete
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Business. Lathes for Wood
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Prepared Gypsum
For Whitening and Coloring
Stores, Dwellings, Churches,
Mills, Hotels, Barns, or for
any purpose where whitewash
or kalsomine is used;
A Beautiful,
Durable,
and Cheap
wash for the wall, outside or
inside; it will be good for
years if kept covered with
water. It is smooth, like
paint. For use, reduce with
water quite thin, and apply
with kalsomine brush.
JOHN MAXWELL,
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PLAIN AND ARTISTIC
GRATES
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A SPECIALTY.
Also Furnaces and Ranges.
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Manufacturers of


Plain and Ornamental Iron Bedsteads
For Hospitals and Private Use. The best, most
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Husk Mattresses, Feather Beds, Pillows, etc.
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GOLD MEDAL, PARIS, 1878.
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and his other styles may be had of all dealers
throughout the world.
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THE TAHANTO MANUFACTURING CO.,
42 BATTERY MARCH ST., BOSTON,
Manufacturers of Decorative Articles in Metal.
Friezes, Panels and Dados for the Interior Decoration of Houses, Hotels, etc.
Panels for Furniture from imported and original designs. Facings and Tiles for Mantel Pieces, etc.
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Special attention is called to the reproductions from natural leaves and flowers in the panels
and tiles for furniture and interiors.
Correspondence solicited and estimates furnished on application.

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and address of the maker of goods men-
tioned in this column. In order to avoid
the appearance of advertisements, no name
will be attached to notices herein.

HINTS AND NOTIONS.

Horizontal wall papers. An English
decorator makes the following suggestion in
regard to wall papers: "I think it would be a
great advantage and a novelty to print all the
papers to hang horizontally, as well as the
borders. It requires very good care and pre-
cision to get the filling paper perfectly upright,
and if the first length hung at the beginning of
a long wall, say twenty feet, should be the
least out of a perpendicular, scarcely visible
under the plumb-line, it would make a differ-
ence easily discernible at the other end. In a
set pattern especially it is necessary to hang
the border all around the room to a certain
mark or pattern in the filling paper. The plan
I adopt besides hanging the filling paper per-
fectly upright is to draw a horizontal line
round the room about two feet down from the
cornice in order that I might prove the up-
rightness of the filling by getting a certain
mark on the pattern in the line throughout as
well as matching on the vertical edge. By
hanging the filling paper horizontally, accuracy
may be obtained in an easier and more perfect
manner. In designing a filling paper for the
purpose, it perhaps may be found necessary to
give a different character to that which is hung
vertically."

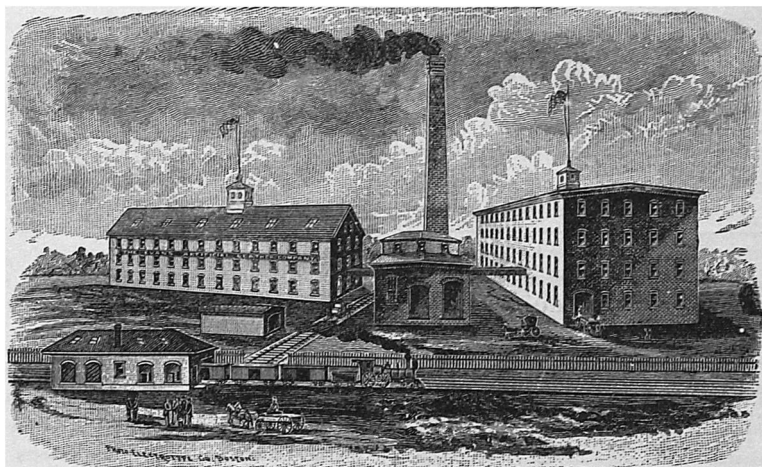
Decorative art. (Lime Kiln Club). The
secretary then announced the following in-
quiry from the office of the port collector of
New York: "Is it the opinion of the Lime
Kiln Club that the art of whitewashing has
reached its limit?" "It am not," responded
the president. "On the contrary, the art of
whitewashin' has only reached de boyhood
state. De las' five y'ars have witnessed many
improvements—such as purvidin' for a perspec-
tive in kitchen ceilin's an' arrangin' for a
frieze of the fourteenth century order in de
parlor—but the nex' will bring our art in
direck competishun wid landscape work. A
fifth of a century hence de world will wonder
dat men eber paid \$20 for a steel engravin' de
size of a house doah, when a ceilin' twenty feet
squar' kin be whitewashed in the Venetian
order for \$1.50."

Menu cards recently used were tiny gilded
dust-pans at each plate. These were filled
with hot-house flowers, simply tied together
on the under side of the dust pan. The menu
was painted in blue letters on the gilded back-
ground, and the guest's name was painted on
the handle. At a "Rosebud" lunch party the
napkin at each plate was slipped into gilded
clothes pins. The pins were prettily decorated
with flowers, and were, of course, retained by
the guests as souvenirs. Some people have
exquisitely painted satin or plush dials, and
the menu is arranged so that when removed the
little ornament is complete.

How to make a tidy. The directions
given in fashion journals for crocheting tidies
and things are very lively reading, but lack
plot. If our memory is not at fault, they run
somehow this way: Work nine stitches, turn
back, two stitches in third bar, two single in
thirds, three chain, B to Q 4th ch., K takes B,
than make eight chain and fasten to center of
Q B 7th, loop and turn back, white to play and
mate in three stitches. It seems easy enough.
—Norristown Herald.

To clear out coal smoke. If troubled
with the smoke from soft coal so that you
cannot lay your clothes on the grass to bleach
you can improve their looks in this way: After
rubbing them, pour absolutely boiling water
over them, and let them lie in this water all
night. Next morning scald and rinse as usual.
This does a great deal toward clearing out the
yellowish color they would otherwise certainly
have.
China for the table is now decorated with
portraits of the members of the family.
A continued art story is a novelty, and is
given in The Artist of Boston.
Velvet covered brackets are popular.
Plush easels are quite neat.

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IMPROVED
SUBSTITUTE FOR LEATHER.

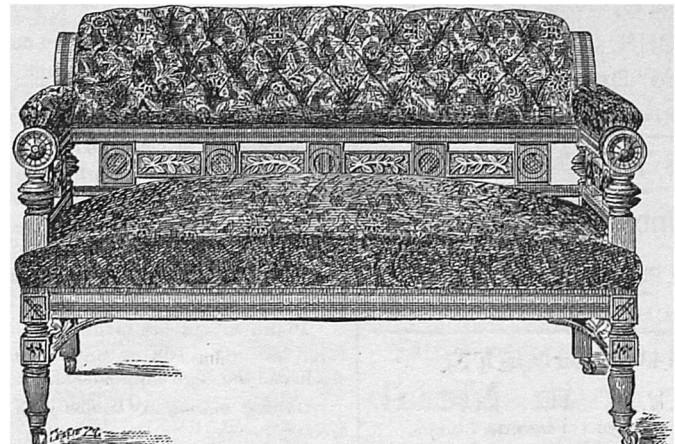


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Expositions of 1883.
It is indistinguishable from real leather in nature and appearance, is manufactured in all
desirable colors, is not affected by the temperature, is impervious to water, and is made in light
and heavy weights so that it may be substituted for cheap as well as costly leather.
IT COSTS LESS, varying from one-third to two-thirds, according to the kind of leather it is
used in place of.
It is especially adapted for UPHOLSTERING FURNITURE, for LAMBREQUINS,
PORTIERES, and DECORATIVE purposes generally.
Special attention is called to our ALLIGATOR goods, being now largely used for furniture
coverings, and also our NEW EMBOSSED LEATHER SUBSTITUTE in any design suitable
for wall decorations, ceilings, and other purposes.
WALTER N. DOLE, General Agent. EVANS ARTIFICIAL LEATHER COMPANY,
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in sending for Samples state the purpose for which the Goods are intended.

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Fine Parlor, Church and Lodge
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The above cut shows the Divan in our No. 86 Parlor Suit, an entirely new
design; comprising six pieces, all different, including a Divan, Low Back Easy,
Ladies and Corner Chairs and two Side Chairs, Upholstered in Embossed Silk
Plush or covering to suit.

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PLAIN AND ENCAUSTIC,
For Public Buildings and Dwellings,
AS IMPORTED BY US SINCE 1850,
And laid by us in the Capitols at Washington and Albany, and in numerous Churches, Banks, and Dwellings in every part of the Country,
GLAZED AND ENAMELED TILES,
For Mantels, Hearths, Wainscoting, &c., and for Exterior Decoration.
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OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS.
From MINTON'S, Maw's, Boote & Co.
MOSAICS in stock and made to order.
LARGE STOCK OF
Mantels, Grates and Open Fireplaces.
Special designs made to suit customers free of charge.
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SPANISH TILES.
NOLLA'S the Best Colors and Hardness ever produced in Flooring Tile.
ORIGINAL DESIGNS FOR EVERY WORK.
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Stained and Cut Glass Works.
CHURCH AND ORNAMENTAL WINDOWS TO ORDER.
Ground, Enameled and Embossed Glass. All kinds of Glass Ware in general.
GLASS SIGNS. BEVELING A SPECIALTY.
Nos. 21 & 27 Pearl St., Boston.

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STAINED GLASS.
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LEADED MOSAICS FOR DWELLINGS, ETC.
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J. & R. LAMB,
59 CARMINE ST., N. Y.
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ARTISTIC Stained Glass.
NEW DESIGNS IN PROGRESS OF WORK.
MEMORIAL WINDOWS.
Door Lights, Window Panels, Screens, &c.
FIRE SCREENS, &c., &c.
Send for Hand-Book by Mail.

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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

An ornament peculiar to the Chinese potters, and adopted at an early date, was the "crackle." This is generally found of a brownish gray, and relieved by raised ornaments of a dark ferruginous color, much resembling bronze. Handles of this kind consist of kylins' heads, with movable rings placed inside the teeth. Circular ornaments are also found, some three or four upon a vase at irregular intervals, about the size of a shilling piece, with seal-like impressions, and bands of the same bronze-like paste round the lips and body of the vases. The crackle appearance is produced by a very simple method, the body or *pate* being made more sensitive to heat and expansion than the coating or glass. Only a little manipulation is required to cause the cracks all over the surface to be more or less frequent, and so form crackle of a larger or smaller pattern. Black, and sometimes red, were then rubbed into these tiny cracks to give this curious decoration a more marked form.

A White House room. A room in the White House is decorated in the style of the thirteenth century. It contains also a Japanese screen, the portraits of Grant and Van Buren, a piece of tapestry showing Gutenberg reading aloud from his first block-letter bible, and furniture of cherry wood. When, after the lapse of a century or two, the decorative artists of that period search for specimens of nineteenth century decorations, they will doubtless find themselves a trifle puzzled on entering this room.—*The Current.*

Mr. George Alfred Townsend expresses the belief that "our wealthy men could not put their money to better use than to stir up the artistic energies of the whole people." The indications are that the rich are coming round to the liberal encouragement of art. It is quite the fashion in some communities, among the wealthy, to show an interest in art development, both by the purchase of valuable pictures and by extending liberal aid in local enterprises. This disposition is not manifested in the larger cities exclusively.

The throne room of the Sultan, at Constantinople, is very gorgeous. The gilding is unequalled by any other building in Europe, and from the ceiling hangs one of the superb Venetian chandeliers, whose 200 lights make a gleam like that of a veritable sun. At each of the four corners of the room, tall candelabra in baccarat glass are placed, and the throne is a huge seat covered with red velvet, and with arms and back of pure gold.

"Canvasine." We have had so many inquiries regarding this art as recently noticed in our Hints and Notions, that we will not undertake to answer them by mail, but will refer all parties seeking further information to *The Artist*, 2 Paternoster Buildings, London, E. C., where they may obtain pamphlets, giving full directions.

An exceedingly pretty piece of embroidery for a sofa pillow is made by taking strips of blue satin and embroidering them with pink moss rose-buds and the maiden-hair fern, alternate with these strips plush or velvet bands of a contrasting color.

Among the stained glass windows that have arrived from France for St. John's Church in the city of Washington, is one ordered by President Arthur as a memorial to his deceased wife.

A lock-lid tea-pot permitting the pot to be turned over to any angle without the top falling off, is a most useful article.

A fringed scarf of ecru satin or pongee, with three branches of holly grouped carelessly upon one end, is very pretty for a chair back.

Thermometer panels of satin are made. Arbutus and other floral designs are painted or embroidered in the corners.

White shades for gas or lamps may be beautified by covering with a lace veil dotted with gold spots.

A great exhibition of paintings will be held in Paris from May 1, to June 15, 1886. In 1889 the Universal Exposition is intended.

CLEVELAND Stained Glass Works,
No. 99 and 101 Public Square,
CLEVELAND, Ohio.
Stained, Enameled, Embossed and Cut Glass Memorial Windows and Domestic Work of every kind. Correspondence solicited and estimates furnished.
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IN EVERY STYLE OF THE ART, MODERN AND ANTIQUE,
For Public and Private Buildings
Designs furnished for Memorial, Heraldic and Figure Windows.
Office & Factory, 2129 & 2131 Market St.,
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The Smith & Dasselme Ornamental Glass Works.
ARTISTIC ORNAMENTATION ON GLASS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION, for Steamboat, Car, House and Church Decoration.
Looking Glass Plates Ornamented in Gold and Silver. Monograms, Trade Marks, Crests, etc., neatly arranged. Designs Furnished on Application.
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SILVERED EMBOSSING
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Furniture Trade a Specialty.
49 UNIVERSITY PLACE,
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"Glacier" Window Decoration,
The Most Perfect Substitute for Stained Glass.

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Architects AND Builders
WANTING
FANCY GRILLS, ANDIRONS, ETC.
Are requested to forward plans, or have us call and give estimate.
Special attention given to Wrought Iron Fencing, Window Guards and Stable Goods.
DAVID PETTIT & CO.,
Nos. 1126, 1130 & 1132 Ridge Av.,
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Old Stand of Robert Wood & Co.

Williamson Art Metal Works,
MANUFACTURERS OF
THE WILLIAMSON BRONZE TILE
Brasses for Mantel Facings,
Inlaying in Cabinets, Open Fire Places
Decorative Purposes Generally,
Engravings on Brass.
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Artistic Decorator in Paper & Fresco
Also PLAIN PAINTING.
A choice assortment of Paper Hangings always in stock.
Personal supervision and expedition of all
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Specialite de Peinture pour Batiments.
169 WOOSTER ST., NEW YORK.
My preparation of Colors used in House Painting
enables me to do work cheaper than before. Send for
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BRONZE
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LEAF OF ALL
KINDS
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HERRMAN ANSPACHER,
Decorative Art Designer & Painter
FOR DWELLINGS AND CHURCHES,
957 Sixth Avenue, near 53d St.
NEW YORK.

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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

A friend of Mr. Vanderbilt informs me that the reason he has decided to close his gallery is precisely that which induced Miss Wolfe and Mr. Belmont to close their galleries. The people who came there thought that in entering a rich man's gallery, it was not necessary for them to wipe their feet, take off their hats, or behave with even the common courtesy and politeness they would assume in a public gallery. The great majority of the visitors were veritable Paul Pry's who asked a thousand impudent questions, kicked their heels against the wainscoting, rubbed their fingers and noses against the most valuable paintings, pried into other apartments, and explored forbidden rooms through key-holes and cracks. Naturally enough the gentleman who has once before sent the public to perdition, feels like repeating the anathema. He has at least decided to send out no more cards and the line is to be drawn at the outside door.—*The Studio.*

The gathering together of people in great numbers in cities is a calamity, and with a wider diffusion of knowledge relating to rural life will come a better appreciation of the country and the blessings it brings to the physical as to the spiritual man. We have been busy destroying the forests and building towns, and on the plan of the old walled cities of Europe. But already this mistake is being corrected, and tree-planting in cities is advocated. And as the people of the Old World are setting us the example, we shall soon be planting shade trees in all our cities. Among the arguments advanced in favor of this plan is the relief to the optic nerve through the eye resting on a green color. Weak eyes among the dwellers in cities is attributed to the absence of green foliage in our streets, and the scientists are favoring the presence of trees in all city thoroughfares.—*LAURA C. HOLLOWAY, in The Manhattan for March.*

Embroidered bedspreads and round bolsters are quite indispensable in an artistic bedchamber. Some of these spreads are very sumptuous and expensive, both in material and decoration. Silk sheeting and serge are the fabrics most used, or, if a thin fabric is preferred, the fine white Bulgarian cloth is the most desirable. The latter material may be lined with silk of a color in accord with its embroidered decoration, if a delicate tint is desired. The spreads of silk sheetings are ornamented with applied or crewel work, and are finished with a wide band of plush on three sides. Oriental designs, or conventional floral forms, are the most appropriate decorations. For cheaper spreads, cretonne is used with good effect. The white spreads, with square linen pillow shams, is becoming a thing of the past.

Malleable bronze. In order to prepare a bronze that shall be as elastic as copper or wrought iron, says the *Polytechnisches Notizblatt*, some mercury must be put in it, say from 1 to 2 per cent., according to the degree of malleability to be imparted to it. The mercury may be combined with one of the metals of which the bronze is made before making the alloy, or it may be added to the melted mass that already contains the different metals in the proper proportions. Thus it can be added to the melted copper before or after the addition of tin or simultaneously with it, and stirred; or an amalgam of tin can be introduced into the melted copper.

Schools of design for fine arts are being organized in Paris, and will be supported by the municipality, offering absolutely free instruction to the students. The one already opened teaches decorative painting and carving also the treatment of pottery, glass, and enamels. The next school to be opened will teach furniture designing and making. A shop or work room attached to the schools will make the instruction in a measure practical, and all the opportunity possible will be given the students to convert their designs into cash.

The fashionable window curtain in Dakota is a snow bank tied back by a blizzard.

The honeysuckle is a popular and a very pretty figure for embroidery.

MCCRAITH & MCCONCHIE,
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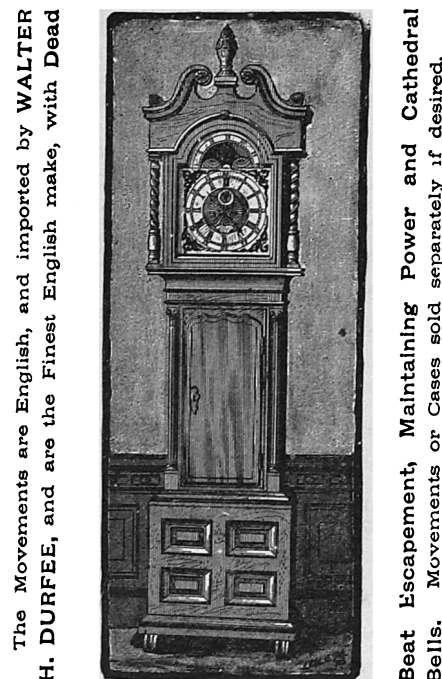
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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

Mixing colors. Leading shades and tints in common use may be produced as follows:
Buff—White, yellow ochre and red. *Chestnut*—Red, black and yellow. *Chocolate*—Raw umber, red and black. *Claret*—Red, umber and black. *Copper*—Red, yellow and black. *Dove*—White, vermilion, blue and yellow. *Drab*—White, yellow ochre, red and black. *Fawn*—White, yellow and red. *Flesh*—White, yellow ochre and vermilion. *Freestone*—Red, black, yellow ochre and white. *French Gray*—White, Prussian blue and lake. *Gray*—White lead and black. *Gold*—White, stone ochre and red. *Green Bronze*—Chrome green, black and yellow. *Green Pea*—White and chrome green. *Lemon*—White and chrome yellow. *Limestone*—White, yellow ochre, black and red. *Olive*—Yellow, blue black, and white. *Orange*—Yellow and red. *Peach*—White and vermilion. *Pearl*—White, black and blue. *Pink*—White, vermilion and lake. *Purple*—Violet, with more red and white. *Rose*—White and madder lake. *Sandstone*—White, yellow ochre, black and red. *Snuff*—Yellow and Vandyke brown. *Violet*—Red, blue and white. In the foregoing table of the combinations of colors required to produce a desired tint, the first-named color is always the principal ingredient, and the others follow in the order of their importance. Thus, in mixing a limestone tint, white is the principal ingredient, and red the color of which the least is needed. The exact proportions of each color must be determined by experiment with a small quantity. It is best to have the principal ingredient thick, and add to it the other paints thinner.

An inexpensive but neat table cover for a common room is made by taking a square of cretonne for the centre. Choose cretonne with very small figures, and of not too bright colors; for a border put a band of linen around it, dark drab linen; fringe this out, and make quite a deep fringe; where the linen joins the cretonne on the seam, put a row of fine feather stitching and on the corners also. Dust does not show on this spread, and can be easily shaken from it.

Leather chair seats may be revived by rubbing them with well-beaten white of egg. Leather bindings of books may also be cleansed by this method. White Roman bindings should be washed with a soft flannel saturated with soapsuds.

Gilded frames. To restore gilding to picture frames, etc., remove all dust with a soft brush, and wash the gilding in warm water in which an onion has been boiled; dry quickly with soft rags.

Indian silver should be washed in a weak solution of borax and water, and Benares brasswork with a soft flannel dipped in lemon juice, and afterwards rinsed in weak soda and water.

To clean brass and copper utensils, mix 1 oz. of oxalic acid, 6 oz. of rotten stone, and half an ounce of gum arabic; apply a small portion, rubbing dry with a flannel or leather.

To clean red brick floors, rub them with a brick of the same color, moistened with a little warm milk and water, and wipe dry with a soft cloth.

Ivory may be restored to its former whiteness (when not stained) by cleaning with powdered burnt pumice stone and water, and then placing it under glasses in the sun's rays.

To keep steel in polish when not in use, cover the article well with mutton fat which has been clarified, wrap it in soft paper, and place in a dark but dry cupboard.

Lids of blacking boxes may be made ornamental by covering with crazy patchwork. A band of plush around the edge is also an improvement.

Mildew may be removed by dipping the stained parts into butter milk, and putting them into the sun.

New paint can be taken out with spirits of turpentine, or the article may be placed (if it will admit of so doing) in hot water.

Old fruit stains may be taken out by putting the article in the sun, and bleaching for several days.

Moth-infested articles should be saturated in naphtha or benzine. It injures nothing, and kills the destroyer.

Crazy patchwork is said to have been suggested by certain Japanese patterns.

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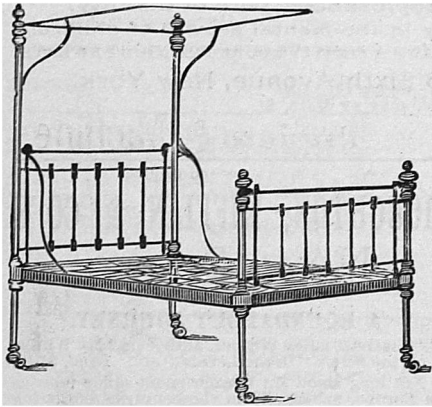
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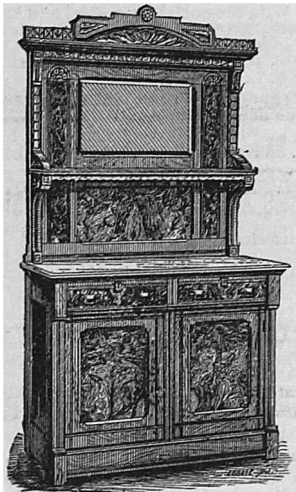
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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

Mrs. Langtry's boudoir is thus described by a correspondent of the *Chicago Tribune*: "Her dressing-table is covered with pretty trifles in silver and ivory, some of the boxes being rare examples of old Dutch repousse, and worth little fortunes each. Her favorite perfume is wood violet. Mrs. Langtry's writing-desk was strewn with pretty bibelots, but I observed that she does not use a crest or a coat of arms, which, doubtless, she has a better right to than some of her Republican sisters whose belongings are, as Miss Squeers would say, one mass of heraldic signs and "demned lating." Everything about the room is dainty and pretty. The hangings at the windows and doors are of pretty blue and white chintz, looped back with yellow ribbons, the floor of waxed wood is nearly covered with rugs of various kinds—cashmere, Daghistan, Agra, and a beautiful Lahore carpet. There is a large white skin before her couch, and another by her bed; the walls are covered with pictures, with here and there an eastern scarf or bit of antique embroidery thrown across one. The mantel is draped with beautiful old embroideries entirely hiding the cold, dull marble.

For using up odds and ends of velvets, plush, cloth, and colored filoselle and other silks, may be mentioned some work, which is shown at the Royal School of Art Needlework, in London, done by elderly ladies whose eyesight is impaired. Rough colored serge of some good color forms the foundation, and on it there are designs of large acorns, bursting chestnut pods, oranges, pomegranates, and many other things, raised by means of padding, edged with gold cord or silk stitching, and composed of scraps which are usually thrown away as too small to use. The leaves are of scraps of diagonal cloth, serge, etc., and the fruit usually of the velvet. The padding can be made from the tiniest scraps, cut into the minutest of pieces. Dyed blankets can be utilized in this style, and form curtains, *couvrepieds*, carriage-rugs, chair-backs, bags for scraps, table-cloths, and other things. A little taste and skill in arranging a design are required, but the work is extremely easy.—*Art Interchange*.

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Mr. Theodore Child is contributing some very interesting papers upon Parisian literature and the theatricals to the *Philadelphia American*.

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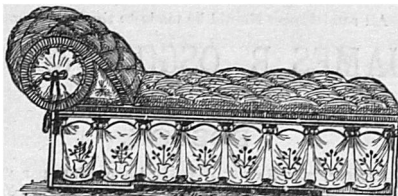
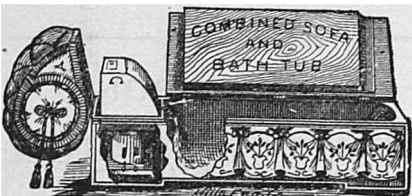
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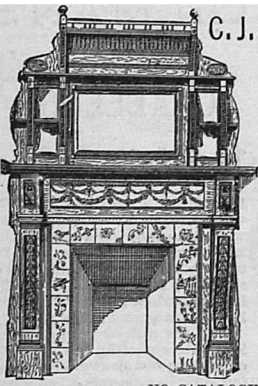
This Chair is designed in obedience to hygienic law. The rear portion of the seat rests on springs so arranged that it permits the back of the chair to receive a large portion of the weight of the body; it expands the lungs, gives free play to the respiratory organs. It is constructed of the best material, in a most thorough manner.



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We have a large force of
Artists and Engravers in the
employ of this paper, and we
have made a specialty of fine
work in these particular lines.

As examples of our work we
would ask attention to any of
the illustrations in any number
of this Magazine.

OUR PRICES ARE REASONABLE.

The Decorator and Furnisher Co.

P. O. BOX 1543, N. Y. CITY.

The Publisher will furnish the name and address of the maker of goods mentioned in this column. In order to avoid the appearance of advertisements, no name will be attached to notices herein.

HINTS AND NOTIONS.

The growth of the furniture industries. A glance at the census returns of 1870-1880 gives some interesting particulars respecting the numerical development of cabinet making and cognate trade in Great Britain. In 1870 there were in England and Wales 48,333 males and 8,612 females connected with the cabinet making and upholstering branches; while, according to the census of 1881, there are now 51,761 males and 7,985 females connected with these industries, the gross total having thus risen from 56,945 persons to 59,746 persons. Wood carvers have increased in numbers from 2,487 in 1871 to 3,108 at the present time; 28 of this number being females. "Carvers and gilders" number 8,144 (including 330 women); the corresponding figures at the census of 1871 having been 7,304 (including 234 women). French polishers have increased from 7,815 to 10,112, the number of female operatives included in these totals being respectively 1,461 to 2,029. Wood turners and box makers are, strange to say, bracketed together as 13,977, against 7,350 ten years ago. The manufacture of carpets and rugs, which employed 11,568 hands in 1871, engages now the services of 13,985 persons, thus showing an increase of about 23 per cent. Taking cabinet-makers, upholsterers, French polishers, wood-carvers and gilders, shop-fittings makers and dealers, furniture dealers, carpet makers, gas-fitters, bell-hangers and locksmiths, altogether, we find that these industries conjointly give employment to 124,355 persons, the corresponding number ten years ago having been 106,108. The growth in these trades has, therefore, been at the rate of 17 per cent., while the growth of population was, during the same period, 14.36 per cent. It is pleasant to discover from these particulars that our trade has not diminished in importance; or, rather, the number of hands employed has not decreased. —London Cabinet Maker.

Low mantel-pieces offer other advantages than the opportunity of hanging good sized portraits in the wall space above them. They afford good positions for the display of choice statuary or rare pottery of large size on the mantel board, which the superincumbent woodwork of the overmantel must, in a large measure, prevent. Moreover, such an upper structure may take from the effect of the pottery, and, so to speak, put it in the shade. The space above such bric-a-brac may, in the absence of a large picture, be ornamented with sconces, small family pictures and silhouettes, or trophies of some kind, which will stand out in happy relief from the wall at the back.

In the handsome and costly apartment houses now being constructed, a novel feature is a large refrigerator kept at a freezing temperature all the summer by means of coiled pipes, through which will circulate a freezing mixture forced up from the cellar. The ice-man will not be needed, and eggs, butter, cheese, meat, milk and poultry can be kept in perfect condition.

Give us a house furnished with books. To spend several days in a friend's house, and hunger for something to read, while you are treading on costly carpets, and sitting upon luxurious chairs, and sleeping upon down, is as if one were bribing your body for the sake of cheating your mind.

A new kind of cloth is being made in Lyons from the down of hens, ducks and geese. Seven hundred and fifty grains of feathers make one square meter (about eleven square feet) of a light and very warm water-proof cloth, which can be dyed in all shades.

We have received an illustrated catalogue of Parlor Furniture from Joseph Scheid of Cincinnati. The work is neat, and the idea an excellent one. If the drawings were as good as the articles they are intended to represent, the catalogue would be unexceptionable.

A broom support is something new. It is designed not only to sustain the broom out of the way when not in use, but also to straighten out the bent straws, and otherwise keeping it in good condition.

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MANUFACTURERS OF

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DEAD FINISH HOLLAND

AND
Patent Holland Dados.

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equal to the Scotch in finish
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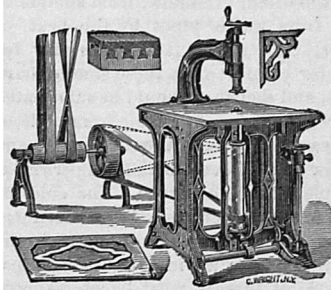
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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

Window ventilation. No time could be better than the present for beginning the practice of house ventilation by the window, which is still, in the majority of houses, the readiest and the safest means of obtaining a regular and constant supply of fresh air. The practice, begun in warm weather, may be carried on with proper care through autumn and winter. The constantly accumulating impurities derived from breath, from perspiration, from excreta of other kinds collected in sleeping rooms, from the use of gas or lamp-light, and too often, even now, from suction of sewer gas from waste pipes by the heat of house fires, etc., render it as necessary for health as for comfort that these should have free egress, and that they should be substituted by the pure outer air. Fresh air from without may very easily be had without draught, and without risk of cold even to delicate persons if a few simple rules be observed. The cold air of winter, of course, enters with greater force and in greater proportional volume than the more equal summer air into a warm room. The aperture of ingress must be correspondingly diminished. Air from a window is preferable to that from an open inner door, no matter how roomy the house; from its more reliable purity. If the window be the inlet, the fire, fire-place, or it may be the door of a room in summer acting as an outlet it may be opened from the top, the extent being regulated according to the outer temperature. A window should never be made to ventilate by opening it from below, unless the open lower space be filled up in some way and ventilation be carried on at the middle where the sashes join—otherwise draughts are unavoidable. The ventilating pane is a hardly less simple and equally efficient and safe method with either of the others. Window ventilation is especially useful in bedrooms, and its efficiency or otherwise cannot fail to affect the vital powers of the occupant, who, in his slumbers, must trust to other energies than his own for the removal of those impurities and morbid germs which his every breath multiplies around him.—*Lancet*.

An improved coffee pot is made. The coffee or tea pot has a perforated false bottom, the true bottom beneath which is tapering or conical, in the middle of which is a faucet; the coffee or tea is placed on this false bottom, and then the desired water is added, after which the pot is placed inside another vessel of suitable construction to hold water all around, and the larger vessel is placed over the fire, thus extracting the flavor and the aroma from the tea and coffee, so that none of it will be lost.

A fire-proof ceiling has been invented. It is composed of tile supported from joists by hangers, and hanging facing tiles placed against the sides of the joists and top tiles placed between the upper joists. The top tiles and the tops of the joists are covered by a layer of cement, rendering the ceiling secure against fire.

Prize for an original essay on sanitary science. The Worshipful Company of Grocers, of London, have issued an announcement, offering a prize of \$5,000 for the best essay on the above subject. The prize is awarded every four years, and is open to universal competition, British and foreign.

A clothes drier, clothes horse, and clothes closet all in one, capable of being folded up and put aside, is a new invention.

Old paper may be removed from the wall by dampening it with saleratus and water. Never paper a wall over old paper.

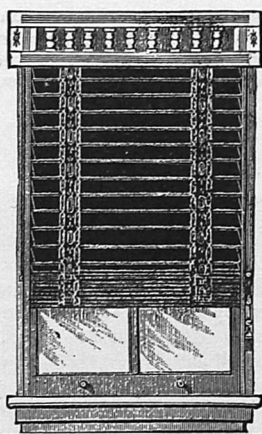
Architectural ornaments may be molded in a composition of chalk, glue, and paper paste.

Candles, paraffine. To dye a beautiful red, purple or violet tints, use aniline colors.

Hearths of gray marble may be cleaned by rubbing with linseed oil.

Sycamore is becoming a very popular wood for interior finish.

The Gothic is the most picturesque style of furnishing.



THE CELEBRATED PHILADELPHIA Venetian Blinds,

Of all sizes, kinds and qualities. Upholstered in the best manner and furnished at short notice. In various shades of GREEN, BROWN, DRAB, BLUE, STONE COLOR, LAVENDER, TAN COLOR, OLIVE, SAGE OR BOTTLE GREENS.

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Made of Slats, 1 1/4, 1 1/2, 1 3/4, 2 or 2 1/2 inches wide, with Linen, Worsted or Silk Trimmings.

These Blinds will fit any window, without alteration to window frames, and are much better and cheaper for Bay Windows than inside shutters.

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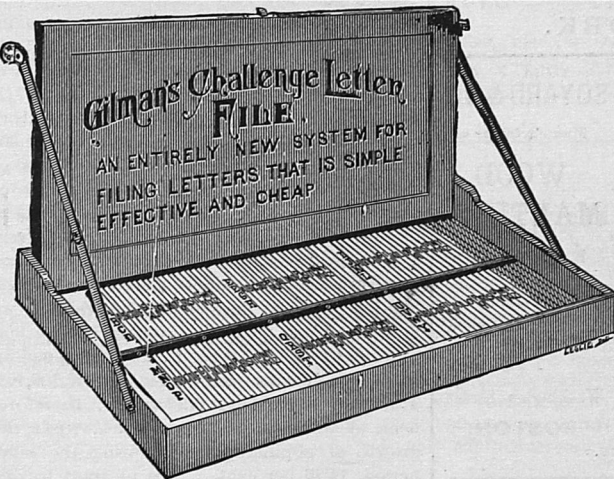
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turn to him for hope and rest. He has their hearts,
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kind on the Continent.—*Milwaukee Liberal*
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UNSURPASSED
In this Country.—*Waterbury Republican*.
Published Monthly.
\$4.00 a year; 35 cents a number.

A. N. BELL, NEW YORK.

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DUMB WAITERS
And General Hand Holsting Establishment,
145 & 147 East Forty-second Street,
Near Lexington Ave., NEW YORK.
Safety Invalid Elevators a specialty. Established 1855
Nearly 87,000 of our arrangements now in use. Repair-
ing or altering at the shortest notice. JAS. MURTAUGH.

The Publisher will furnish the name
and address of the maker of goods men-
tioned in this column. In order to avoid
the appearance of advertisements, no name
will be attached to notices herein.

HINTS AND NOTIONS.

Oil spots on paper. To remove oil stains
from the pages of a book without destroying
the printing, gently warm the stained parts
with a hot flat-iron (so as to take out as much of
the oil as possible) on blotting paper, then dip
a brush into rectified spirits of turpentine, and
draw it gently over the sides of the paper,
which must be kept warm during the whole
process. Repeat the operation as many times
as the thickness of the paper may require.
When the oil is entirely removed, to restore the
paper to its usual whiteness, dip another brush
in highly rectified spirits of wine, and draw it
in like manner over the stained place, particu-
larly round the edges. By adopting this plan
the spots will entirely vanish, and the paper
assume its ordinary whiteness.

Iron rust can be removed by salt mixed
with lemon juice being rubbed on, or either
place the article in a bowl containing kerosene
oil, or wrap it in a soft cloth well saturated
with the oil; allow it to remain so for two days
and then scour the rusty spots with brickdust.
If very badly rusted, use salt wetted with hot
vitriol; after scouring well rinse in boiling
water and polish clean with soft flannel and a
little sweet oil.

Alabaster, if much discolored, should be
covered with paste made of quicklime and
water, and left for forty-eight hours or longer.
Wash off the paste with soap suds in which a
little soda has been dissolved. Take pains to
give an extra rub to the more stained parts.
If the vases have carved designs beware of
rubbing off the fine edges, or they will lose
some of their sharpness, and the articles their
value.

**To clean frosted (dead) silver orna-
ments.** Dissolve a lump of soda in a saucepan
of boiling water, and place them in it, and
leave them for a few minutes; add a small
piece of yellow soap, and rub the articles while
in a boiling state with a soft toothbrush.
When taken out, place them in a hot oven on
a brick until the desired effect be produced.

To clean marble, take two parts of com-
mon washing soda, one part finely powdered
chalk, one part pumice stone; mix all together
and sift through muslin, afterwards mix the
powder with some water; rub this well on the
marble, and the stains will disappear. To add
a gloss, wash the marble with Fuller's earth
and hot water.

A horse detachor is a novelty. When
the couple in the carriage reach the stage
where they are oblivious to all outside matters,
the horse usually takes advantage of the oppor-
tunity to run away. In that case the detachor
releases the animal from the shafts, and he
continues down the road, while the buggy is
dragged home by the young man.

To polish slate floors, use a smooth, flat
piece of pumice stone, then polish with rotten
stone. Washing well with soap and water
once a week is usually enough to keep the
slates clean; but by adopting the above method
not only do the slates become polished, but
any stains are taken out.

**In any case, all effects of light and
shadow, and figures in relief, are to be avoided**
in ceiling decoration. Flatly treated patterns
may be employed with advantage, but all fcti-
tious appearances of "relief" are to be strictly
avoided.

If in the centre of the ceiling you are
to beautify you have one of those plaster abom-
inations called, in technical parlance, a "rose,"
remove it as speedily as possible, for it is cer-
tain to be a base fraud, and not one ceiling in
ten thousand that is not better without it.

Solid silver can be made to have a dead
surface by annealing the article and plunging
it into hot water acidulated with sulphuric
acid. This is by far the easiest method, but
does not produce the characteristic frost that
appears on gold goods.

Bronze can be renovated and recolored by
mixing one part of muriatic acid with two
parts of water. Free the article from all
grease and grit, and apply the diluted acid
with a dabber of cloth. When dry polish with
sweet oil.

A button made so as to be attached to the
garment by means of an ordinary pin, has been
invented. It is evidently designed for bache-
lors and kindred unfortunates.

Ormolu may be cleaned with ammonia
or spirits of wine. Put it afterwards into
box-wood sawdust, in which it should be
shaken.

WIDE AWAKE

For 1884.

\$3.00 A YEAR.

"It is the king of the juveniles."—*Saratoga Sun*.
"Neck and neck with the best periodicals in the world."—*American Bookseller*.
"A treasury of good morals."—*New York Tribune*.
"Devoted to such live subjects as never fail to interest the boys and girls of our Republic."
—*Albany Evening Post*.
"Foremost among the most elaborate and attractive publications of its kind."—*Boston Courier*.

STARTING at the source of good things, we give here a list of some famous contributors
whose stories and poems and articles are already in hand for the coming year:

Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney, Mrs. Dinah Mulock-Craig, Edward Everett
Hale, "H. H." Susan Coolidge, Arthur Gilman, Lucy Larcom, M. E. B., Mrs. Catherwood, Rev.
Charles R. Talbot, Mrs. Lucy C. Lillie, Margaret Sidney, George MacDonald, Lady Dunboyne,
Mrs. Raymond Blathwayt (Aunt Maggie), Mrs. Louisa T. Craigen, Mrs. Lizzie W. Champney,
Mary E. Wilkins, Mrs. Kate Gannett Wells, Prof. D. A. Sargent, Ernest Ingersoll, Marion
Harland, Sarah Orne Jewett, Mrs. Clara Doty Bates, Eldridge S. Brooks, M. E. W. S. (Mrs. John
Sherwood), Miss Amanda B. Harris, Sophie May, Mrs. Kate Upson Clarke, Margaret Eyttinge,
Rose Kingsley, Edwin D. Mead, Mrs. Susan Power, Mrs. Jessie Benton Fremont, Mrs. Sarah K.
Bolton, Philip Bourke Marston, Celia Thaxter, Nora Perry, Rose Hawthorne Lathrop, Mrs. A.
M. Diaz.

ILLUSTRATED SERIAL STORIES FOR 1884:

- I. A BRAVE GIRL. By *Elizabeth Stuart Phelps*, author of "Gates Ajar," "Doctor Zay," "The Story of Avis," etc.
- II. A DISTRICT MESSENGER BOY. By *James Otis*.
- III. PANSY BILLINGS. By "H. H."
- IV. PAMELA'S FORTUNE. By *Mrs. Lucy C. Lillie*.
- V. HIS THREE TRIALS. A story for boys. By *Mrs. Kate Gannett Wells*.
- VI. AN HISTORICAL SERIAL. (To begin in December).
- VII. IN NO MAN'S LAND. (A wonder-story for little folks.) By *Eldridge S. Brooks*.

Among the purely pictorial attractions will be fine FRONTISPICES from the studio of *F. H. Langren*, whose "A-Maying" and "Winter Birds," in *WIDE AWAKE*, attracted so much attention in 1882. *W. Parker Bodfish* will contribute a picture-serial, in fifty scenes and twenty-four interludes, entitled *THROUGH FRANCE IN SABOTS*. *Mrs. Jessie McDermott* has prepared a novel set of twelve full-page pictures under the title *THE PROCESSION OF THE ZODIAC*. *Joseph Pennell* has sent from Italy some twenty interesting and beautiful drawings of *CHILD LIFE IN VENICE*; *Henry Sandham* has contributed another series, illustrative of *A WINTER CARNIVAL IN CANADA*; and *George Foster Barnes* has just completed an alphabet of novel and artistic decorative initials.

Many valuable contributions, very pleasant reading for the curious, are in hand, among them two articles about FAMOUS DWARFS, and one about FAMOUS GIANTS, by *Isabel Smithson*, illustrated by *Edmund H. Garrett*, from authentic sources; *THE TROUBADOURS*, by *George Foster Barnes*, illustrated by the author; *THE GYPSIES*, by *Mrs. Catherwood*, giving much novel matter, the illustrations including drawings from life sketches made among the gypsy caves of Granada the past winter.

Edward Everett Hale will make an interesting contribution to historical literature through *WIDE AWAKE*, in the form of several articles entitled *THE STORY OF BOSTON COMMON*, giving complete its curious early history, describing famous events and scenes connected with its green shades and malls and narrating many tales and traditions, quaint but authentic. These articles will be fully illustrated.

Mrs. Clara Doty Bates, whose versifications in *WIDE AWAKE* of various nursery tales, *Silverlocks and the Bears*, *Three Little Pigs*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, etc., are received as the classic and standard form of these old favorites, has now put in verse *TWELVE OF AESOP'S FABLES*. These fables have a setting decoratively novel and richly pictorial.

Twelve of *George MacDonald's* lyrics are being set to music by popular foreign composers, among them *Reinecke, Jadasohn, Rheinberger, Lachner, Jungmann, and Cowen*. These musical compositions have been secured for *WIDE AWAKE* by *Louis C. Elson*, the musical editor, lately in Europe on that commission, and they will undoubtedly form the most notable of contributions to music for young folks.

In addition, there have been secured a brilliant line of short stories, travels, practical articles, illustrated poems, etc.; and when the attractions of the C. Y. F. R. U. Reading Course, with its seven series of pithy articles are taken into account, our readers young and old may feel assured of a year of rich entertainment. As *WIDE AWAKE* maintains

A Brilliant Average The Year Round,

some idea of the CHARMING LITERATURE to come—its variety and strength—may be inferred from the articles named below, to appear in early numbers:

- FACING THE WORLD.** By *Dinah Mulock-Craig*.
HOW GIRLS MAY HELP. A Practical Story. *Mrs. James T. Fields*.
THE DAUGHTERS OF A PRESIDENT. *Isabella G. Oakley*.
OUR ROYAL NEIGHBORS AT SANDRINGHAM. *Mrs. Raymond Blathwayt*.
SOME LITTLE SHAKERS. *Amanda B. Harris*.
THE MARBLE QUEEN. *Susan Coolidge*.
SHALL WE STUDY GREEK? *Edward Everett Hale*.
A BOY'S MAKE BELIEVE. *George MacDonald*.
A CANADIAN CARNIVAL. *Dr. W. George Beers*.
CHILD LIFE IN VENICE. *Joseph Pennell*.
SONGS OF PRAISES. *Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney*.
A CHURCH MOUSE. *Sarah Orne Jewett*.

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tioned in this column. In order to avoid
the appearance of advertisements, no name
will be attached to notices herein.

HINTS AND NOTIONS.

As advertisers are better satisfied that cor-
respondents are attracted by a certain adver-
tisement, when that advertisement is men-
tioned, we would esteem it a favor if those of
our readers who write any of our advertisers
would kindly name this paper as the source of
their information—if it is.

Glass floors in France. Attention has
recently been drawn to the above subject by a
leading organ of the glass trade in Germany.
While hitherto glass slabs have only been used
to furnish light in certain portions of the floor-
ing to the rooms below, the new building of
the Cr dit Lyonnais, on the Boulevard des Itali-
ens, Paris, is referred to as affording an
instance of an entire floor being constructed of
glass. There are two basement stories, and the
flooring of the higher of these, as well as of the
groundfloor itself, is entirely composed of
glass slabs placed between iron constructions.
Of late years glass flooring seems to have ac-
quired increased favor in Paris for use in
banke, commercial establishments, etc., on ac-
count of its durability and relatively moderate
cost. The glass slabs are cut out in small
squares, etc., to prevent their being slippery.
These tiles are cast, and have a greenish reflec-
tion. The article is regularly manufactured in
Germany, and in a thickness of four-fifths of
an inch costs from 8s. to 16s. per square metre
(10¼ square feet).

A lovely effect is gained by having the
walls clear bird's egg blue, with dado and
frieze a rich dark blue, while the woodwork is
a dull Indian red in two shades, or the walls a
pale yellow, with dado and frieze a rich orange
yellow; and a low-toned Antwerp blue and
warm gray on woodwork is harmonious and
beautiful, while Pompeian red on dado, and
light red frieze, with salmon-colored walls and
two shades of bronze green with dark red in
grooves on woodwork, presents an elegant
appearance.

A very complete filling for open cracks in
floors may be made by thoroughly soaking
newspapers in a paste made of one pound of
flour, three quarts of water and a tablespoonful
of alum, thoroughly boiled and mixed; make
the final mixture about as thick as putty, a
kind of paper putty, and it will harden like
papier mache.

Knit portieres are made from strips of
silk dresses that have outlived their usefulness,
or such other pieces of silk as might be at hand
can be utilized. These portieres have quite
the effect of Oriental stuffs.

The portable tea maker is a combination
of tea caddy, kettle, tea-pot, milk pitcher,
sugar bowl, and lamp, for the use of travelers.

The security hair pin will interest ladies.
It locks after being put in the hair and is
warranted not to fall out.

To keep ice from forming on the window,
rub a little cold alcohol over the glass with a
sponge or ordinary paint brush.

A bookcase in which the owner can so
secure his books as to make it impossible to
remove them, has been shown.

Cushions for wicker chairs are covered
with wateau chintz.

Mantel scarfs are replacing lambrequins
in small apartments.



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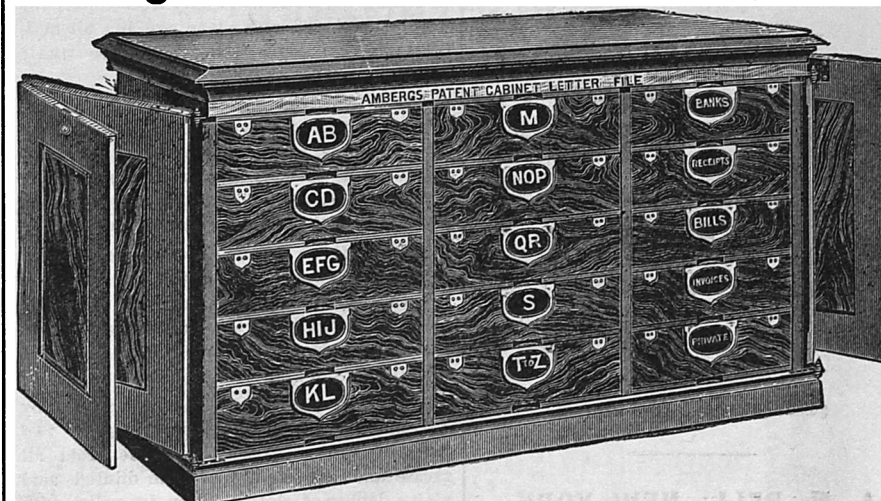
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HINTS AND NOTIONS.

Mitchell, Newton. This correspondent has written, asking if it is good taste to decorate a ceiling with sky effect, while in the centre a plaster ornament represents leaves and flowers. Such decoration would hardly be in good taste, the centre ornament would have no visible means of support. We wrote two of the most prominent fresco designers in the city for their opinion, and append their replies:

“In answer to your favor I will state that it is not in good taste, and against all rules to decorate a ceiling in such manner as asked by your correspondent. I would recommend to take off said centre ornament, and if there is a gas pipe, would put on a small rosette to finish with.”

“In reference to your note I would like to say, that it is not against the rule and good taste to decorate a ceiling in which there is a stucco centre-piece, with a sky effect; but there are certain points which ought to be observed. The centre-piece should not be too large, and the tinting of it should be kept in medium tints. The best and most correct way is, to have the centre-piece connected with fine gold or bronze lines with the surrounding work of the sky, perhaps in a perspective way, which gives the appearance as if the centre-piece was necessary in order to hold it. If the gentleman in question intends to have a ceiling in sky colors all plain, without the necessary surrounding work, no regular fresco painter would fancy that. A few branches, with leaves and flowers, are always necessary on such a ceiling.”

If this correspondent had given his address we would have replied by mail.

Covering a table with Christmas cards. Begin by cutting all the margins of the cards, then arrange them, lapping over each other, starting from a centre, and taking care that all the light and dark ones are not together, but counterbalance each other; stick them on with paste sold in bottles, size, and then varnish. A gold rim makes a good edging, or gimp nailed round with fancy nails.—*Housewife.*

If the earth never gets dry, window plants are not in good condition. Something is wrong. It is the active, growing, working roots that take the moisture out of the earth. It is a sign of good health for the plant to want watering. The color of the soil, as compared to what it is when wet, will tell whether it wants water or not.

A sash cord may be counted among the afflictions, for it usually drops its weight at the wrong time. A sufferer has invented one that never acts in this way, and is neither tied to the weight nor hooked to it, but is so firmly attached as to make it practically impossible to separate them.

A shelf or bracket, to fit around the sharp projecting angle of a chimney-piece or any other wall jutting into the room, may be made very readily, and will be found pretty and convenient.

A new picture by Alma Tadema, entitled “Xanthe and Laon,” is on its way to America, whither much of the best art work of Europe is coming for a market.

Scissors have become the subject of a new patent. We thought this was impossible. Some one has attached a third blade, to be used exclusively for ripping.

An adjustable finger ring is new. The size is regulated by sliding the band in or out of the setting to the stone.

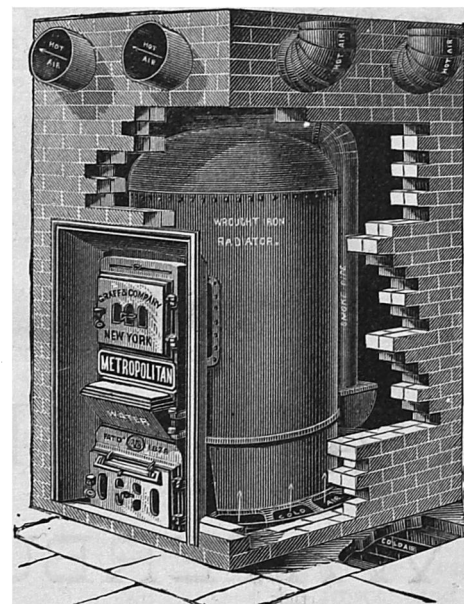
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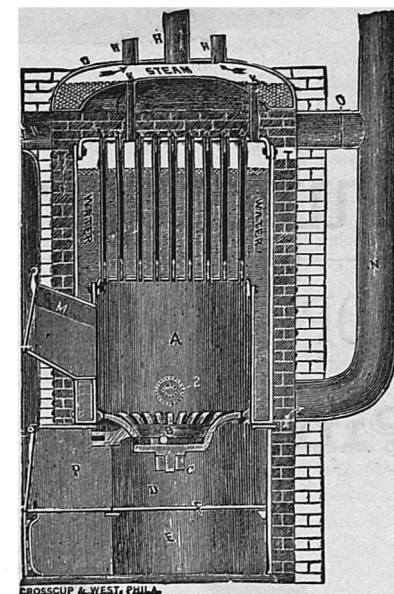
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